

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 OMB-01 /136 W

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R 291220 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7575

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION UN

USDOCOSOUTH

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1501

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS CY

SUBJECT: GOVT ARRESTS 36 GRIVAS FOLLOWERS

SUMMARY: IN MOST ASSERTIVE ACTION YET AGAINST GRIVAS ARMED BANDS, GOVT ARRESTS 36 PEOPLE, MAINLY FROM LIMASSOL, FOR HAVING PARTICIPATED IN POLICE STATION RAIDS AND OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. GOVT TELLS ARRESTS STEMMED FROM INFO OBTAINED EARLIER IN WEEK, AND THAT NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO CAPTURE GRIVAS.

1. FOLLOWING WIDESPREAD HOUSE TO HOUSE SEARCHES JUN 28 IN LIMASSOL AND ADJOINING VILLAGES, POLICE ARRESTED 36 PEOPLE AND CHARGED THEM WITH INVOLVEMENT IN GRIVAS RAIDS AGAINST POLICE STATIONS AND OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. TWO "EOKA B" HIDE OUTS WERE FOUND AND EXPLOSIVES, RADIO- TELEPHONES, ETC, TAKEN FROM RECENTLY RAIDED POLICE STATIONS WERE UNCOVERED.

2. AMONG 36 MEN ARRESTED WERE TWO JUNIOR CYPRIOT NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS AND SIX POLICEMEN. ALL BUT TEN OF 36 WERE
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REMANDED IN CUSTODY BY NICOSIA DISTRICT COURT JUN 28 ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRING TO USE ARMED FORCE AGAINST GOVT AND POSSESSING ARMS, EXPLOSIVES AND SEDITIOUS DOCUMENTS. REMAINING TEN WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE COURT JULY 29.

3. MININT DIRGEN ANASTASSIOU TELLS US LIMASSOL RAID WAS DIRECT RESULT OF INFO OBTAINED FROM FORMER POLICE SERGEANT EVANGELOS CHRISTOPHI, WHO WAS ARRESTED JUNE 23 FOR HAVING PARTICIPATED IN GRIVAS RAID AGAINST FAMAGUSTA " PAPHOS ROAD" POLICE STATION. ANASTASSIOU SAID THAT CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO PICK UP GRIVAS HIMSELF. (SEEMS ENTIRELY CREDIBLE TO US THAT GOVT WOULD CONTINUE TO WANT TO AVOID HOT POTATO OF HAVING GRIVAS ON THEIR HANDS.)

4. LOW LEVEL VIOLENCE IN GREEK COMMUNITY CONTINUES. BOMB EXPLODED NIGHT JUNE 27 FIFTY YARDS AWAY FROM COFFEE SHOP IN VASILIA VILLAGE (KYRENIA) WHERE GRIVAS POLITICAL WING ESEA WAS CONDUCTING MEETING. SOME PROPERTY DAMAGE BUT NO INJURIES. LATER SAME NIGHT THREE CARS BELONG MAKARIOS SUPPORTERS WERE DESTROYED IN PALEOMETOKNON (BOTH NICOSIA).

5. REFERENCED MESSAGE INDICATES AKEL MAY NOW BE ENGAGED IN MILITARY TRAINING. IF TRUE THIS WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT SINCE HITHER-TO AKEL HAS CAREFULLY CULTIVATED NON MILITANT IMAGE AND HAS REFRAINED FROM ORGANIZING ARMED GANGS.

6. COMMENT: LIMASSOL ROUND UP OF GRIVASITES IS DEMONSTRATION OF GROWING GOVT ASSERTIVENESS IN STRUGGLE AGAINST ENOSIS WING. MEANWHILE LEFTISTS CONTINUE TO GOAD ENOTISTS WITH INDIVIDUAL TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST GRIVAS FOLLOWERS. WHETHER LATTER ACTIVITIES ARE CENTRALLY DIRECTED BY LYSSARIDES OR WHETHER (AS ANASTASSIOU INSISTS) THEY ARE UNAUTHORIZED ACTS OF OVER ZEALOUS SUPPORTERS OF ARCHBISHOP IS STILL NOT CLEAR. WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT INDIVIDUAL PRO GOVT TERRORIST ACTS ARE DANGEROUSLY PROVOCATIVE-- A FACT WE HAVE POINTED OUT TO GOVT-- AND THAT AUTHORITIES HAVE DONE LITTLE TO STOP THEM.
MC CLOSKEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NICOSI01501
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730633/aaaajvax.tel
Line Count: 103
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <20-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980306
Subject: GOVT ARRESTS 36 GRIVAS FOLLOWERS
TAGS: PINS, CY
To: ANKARA
ATHENS
EUCOM
LONDON
NATO
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC

UN
USDOCOSOUTH

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005